



## H.R. 3437 – Jackson Gulch Rehabilitation Act of 2007

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 3437 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative John Salazar (D-CO) on August 3, 2007. The Committee on Natural Resources ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by unanimous consent on July 16, 2008.

H.R. 3437 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 15, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 3437 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to carry out the 'Jackson Gulch Rehabilitation Project', located in Colorado's Mancos Water Conservancy District. The Project aims to rehabilitate the Jackson Gulch Canal system for the purposes of improving irrigation for agricultural purposes and increasing the safety of recreational visitors to the park.

As reimbursement for expenses related to the Project, the Secretary is to recover from the District, the lesser of: 1) 35 percent of the cost of the Project; or 2) \$2,900,000. This amount is to be collected with no interest and either over a 15 year period or according to terms agreed to by the Secretary and the District. Additionally, the Secretary is to credit the District for any amounts it paid for engineering work and improvements related to the Project prior to this legislation's enactment. The bill requires the Department of the Interior to pay the Federal share of the total cost of carrying out the project.

The Secretary is to use existing engineering and related studies completed by Federal, State, and local entities when preparing any reports related to the Project. Also, the legislation leaves the District responsible for the operation and maintenance of any facility or rehabilitation work completed under this bill, and releases the Federal government from liability for damages that may arise in relation to any facilities constructed or rehabilitated.

H.R. 3437 authorizes \$8,250,000 for the purposes of this legislation.

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### BACKGROUND

The Mancos Water Conservancy District is located in the Mancos Valley in the southwest corner of Colorado, and consists of the Jackson Gulch Dam and Reservoir, as well as the Inlet and Outlet canals. The Mancos Project canal delivers water from Jackson Gulf Dam to residents, farms, and businesses in Montezuma County, Colorado. A catastrophic failure of the project could result in the loss of water for the Mesa Verde National Park, the town of Mantos, and crop loss.

The Mancos Project was completed in 1950 and has thus far outlived its expected life. According to the Bureau of Reclamation, major rehabilitation is needed on the Project's inlet and outlet canals, and other associated structures.

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that implementing H.R. 3437 "would cost around \$8 million over the 2009-2013 period." [Full CBO Cost Estimate](#)

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### STAFF CONTACT

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